

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Mayor Willie W. Herenton Addresses Leadership Changes at the Memphis Police Department

MEMPHIS, TN (Aug. 17, 2004)--- Memphis Mayor Willie W. Herenton earlier today at a press conference in City Hall addressed the retirement announcements of former Memphis Police Director James Bolden and Police Deputy Director Ray Schwill.

“Public safety is a top priority for this administration,” stated Herenton. “Over the past 17 months there has been no meaningful reduction in crime, nor has a crime abatement plan been developed, presented or enacted since I appointed Bolden director over a year ago,” the mayor added. “An atmosphere of complacency has permeated the department over the past year and our community cannot effectively overcome crime by maintaining the status quo.”

The mayor also stated that he was dissatisfied with Bolden’s management style. “The past leadership was not as motivated by crime reduction and the merits of running a tight ship as expected,” Herenton stated.

The mayor referred to the recent property room thefts that occurred under Bolden’s watch. “Such blatant failures are the result of the absence of accountability,” stated Herenton. “Law enforcement is the most crucial service the City of Memphis provides, which is why I diligently monitor the department and make necessary changes to improve it,” the mayor added.

Herenton named Deputy Chief Larry A. Godwin as interim police director. A 31-year veteran of the Memphis Police Department, Godwin previously served as a Metro Narcotics officer, a patrolman and sergeant. In 1992, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and

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## ADD ONE—MPD RETIREMENTS

assigned to the Crime Response/Bomb Unit as a shift supervisor. In 1998, he was promoted to the rank of major and subsequently assigned as commander of the Crime Response/Bomb Unit.

In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of Inspector and selected to serve as commander of Special Services. On April 14, 2003, he was appointed deputy chief of Special Operations.

Major Ernest Dobbins, commander of the T.A.C.T (Tactical Apprehension Containment Team) Unit replaces Schwill as deputy director. Dobbins has served on the force in several capacities over the past 29 years. Starting out as a uniform patrol officer, Dobbins' ascent to deputy director has been a steady one with him serving as a sergeant in the Vice Narcotics Unit (1986-1990), a lieutenant and shift supervisor at the West Precinct (1990-1992), a shift lieutenant with the TACT Unit (1992-1996), and eventually as TACT Unit commander (1996-2004). Dobbins also is credited with training the newly formed Street Crime Abatement Team (SCAT unit).

"I have every confidence these gentlemen will do an outstanding job reducing crime in our community," stated Herenton. "There is 60 years of experience between them," he added. "Our department should not be negatively impacted in any way by the recent retirement of Bolden and Schwill."

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